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2011 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Now Available

TOPEKA, Kan –Nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses increased in the private sector to an incidence rate of 3.9 total recordable cases per 100 equivalent full-time workers in Kansas, up from 3.7 cases in 2010.

The national incidence rate reported by private sector employers was 3.5 cases per 100 full-time workers in both 2011 and 2010. Workers in private industries in Kansas recorded 34,400 nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in 2011, up from 33,100 injuries in 2010. The construction industry sector reported the greatest increase from 2010 to 2011, increasing from 3.7 to 5.4 injury and illness cases per 100 full-time workers.

Out of the total reported injuries, 8,570 cases required days away from work. The median number of days recorded away from work was seven days. The national median recorded was eight days. More than 25.8 percent of Kansas cases, required at least 31 days off work. Sprains and strains caused the most injuries, with 2,690 cases involving days away from work.

Workers on the job four to six hours reported the highest number of cases, totaling 1,540 or 18 percent of the 8,570 in Kansas. Wednesday and Thursday were the two leading days of the week for injuries and illnesses involving days away from work with 1,810 and 1,660 cases respectively.

For days away from work cases where the time of incident was reported, 48.5 percent happened between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The second highest shift was 4 p.m. to midnight, with 17.3 percent of the total, and midnight to 8 a.m. brought 13.4 percent.

Men accounted for 67.9 percent of these cases with days away from work in Kansas and 61.6 of the reported cases nationally. The 25 to 34 age group recorded 25.6 percent of Kansas cases. The 45 to 54 age group totaled 23.7 percent, followed by the 35 to 44 age group with 21.4 percent of the total.

Laborers and freight, stock and materials movers by hand had the most cases with days away from work at 730. Heavy and tractor trailer truck drivers came in second, with 570 cases. Welders, cutters, solderers and brazers had 350 cases, followed closely by nursing assistants, with 320 cases reported.

Data for this survey is collected by the Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics through an annual survey of more than 3,500 randomly selected Kansas employers. The survey estimates annual counts and incident rates of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses as well as case circumstances and worker characteristics for cases that involve days away from work.

The complete Kansas results are available at: klic.dol.ks.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=382

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